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NEWS

Group Clears Invasive Plants at Elliot Park

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS

July 21, 2023 . 9:56 PM — 2 min read

By Reed Pugh

July 21, 2023. For the past seven years, the Aberjona Initiative, a w... group of the Conservation Commission, has been working to re... invasive plants, improve habitat and open access to our beautiful

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waterways in downtown Winchester. With limited funds, the efforts have been focused on Mill Pond and the riverway below the Center Falls Dam. Recent support from private groups and individuals has allowed the Aberjona Initiative to expand its efforts, and the last two years of Aberjona Clean-up Day have included amazing physical efforts from Winchester Residents to clear invasive plants along our river.

This past April, during Aberjona Clean-up Day, a small group of residents put great effort into clearing invasive plants at Elliot Park, the large tree-filled park on Wedge Pond across from Stop and Shop. This group, led by Bill Band, has decided to continue their efforts with regular visits, under the oversight of the DPW and the Aberjona Initiative, with the goal of opening up the views of Wedge Pond and eliminating the incredible overgrowth of Oriental Bittersweet, Multiflora Rose, Buckthorn, Bindweed and many others. It is critical to remove these plants from waterways as they provide unhealthy food options for local wildlife, strangle out important native plant communities, and don't attract important insects and pollinators that are critical to a healthy system. Most importantly, this working group will continue their efforts in future years to keep the plants contained, which is critical.

Recently, Bill Band and Reed Pugh (Aberjona Initiative) met with Mike Wise, Jim DiTullio, and Jim Shattuck of the DPW to work out responsibilities moving forward, with the DPW planning to remove the cut materials after the group's efforts, and help with some large material later in the year.

Bill is looking for a few more people willing to get dirty and perform some hard work on this project. If you are interested in making a significant difference in this park or anywhere else along our downtown riverfront, and are capable of hard work please email Reed Pugh at reed@barkingdoggardens.com. We also have several upcoming p that would benefit from financial support.

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Our hope is with a significant effort that we can restore the habitat and beauty of Elliot Park with its views of Wedge Pond.

Reed Pugh is a member of the Conservation Commission and the Aberjona Initiative. Photo courtesy of MapQuest.

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Two candidates for Winchester's School Committee will face voters at a forum as the district navigates a new literacy curriculum, budget pressures and questions about student mental health. Heather von Mering and John Bellaire are competing for an open seat on the School Committee, which oversees a budget von

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March 4, 2026

NEWS

Rep. Michael Day helps House colleagues pass sweeping energy affordability bill

The following was submitted by the Office of Rep. Michael S. Day: Rep. Michael S. Day and his colleagues in the House of Representatives recently passed energy affordability legislation that would result in over $9 billion in savings for utility ratepayers over the next 10 years. The bill maintains critical

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NEWS

Winchester gun owners face new training rules starting April 2

Public safety data How Winchester compares on firearms licenses in comparable Massachusetts communities Active licenses as of Jan. 25, 2025 — Source: Massachusetts Criminal History Systems Board License to carry firearms Firearms identification card Winchester and Marblehead are the focus communities. Peers selected based on comparable population size, demographics and suburban

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NEWS

Sen. Jason Lewis, Mass. Senate strengthen fair housing protections for renters, buyers

The following was submitted by the Office of Sen. Jason Lewis: State Sen. Jason Lewis joined his colleagues in the Massachusetts Senate to pass legislation that protects residents from discrimination in the housing market as the Trump administration abandons its enforcement of the federal Fair Housing Act. Illegal discrimination continues

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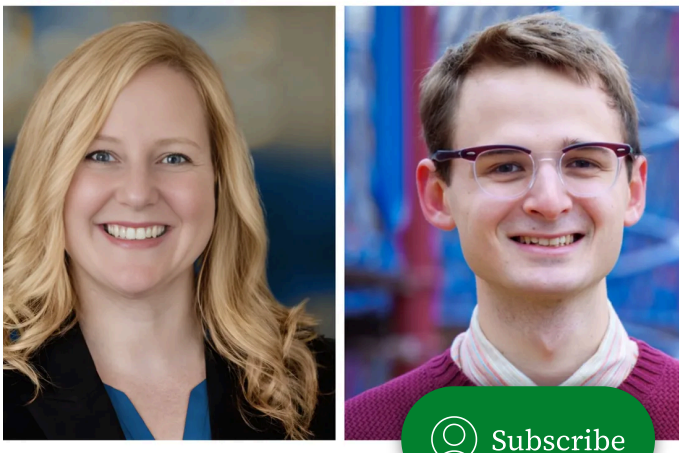

NEWS

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Celebrate Women's History Month with Girls Leading Change

The following was submitted by the Network for Social Justice: To mark Women's History Month and International Women's Day in 2026, the Network for Social Justice is collaborating with club leaders from Winchester High School and members of the Community Health team from La Colaborativa in Chelsea and

March 4, 2026

Winchester School Committee candidates bring contrasting backgrounds to Thursday forum

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FEATURES

'Chicago: Teen Edition' dances onto the Winchester High School stage

By Talia Ho | Correspondent Fame. Fortune. And all that jazz. This spring, Winchester High School presents "Chicago: Teen Edition," a bold musical that explores celebrity culture, media manipulation, and the cost of ambition. This iconic production is set in the 1920s. Performances will take place on March 13 and 14

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS

March 4, 2026

EVENTS

Ripley Chapel in Winchester presents 'Syldason: You Are Welcome Here'

The following was submitted by the Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church: On Friday, March 13, beginning at 7:30 p.m., live in-person and live streamed from the stunning Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church, Winchester, 21 Church St., join in with Syldason, a duo concert featuring Sylvie Zakarian,

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